

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-08 COME-00
INT-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, EFIS, NZ
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT THREATENS TO RESTRICT JAPANESE
FISHING BOAT ENTRY INTO NEW ZEALAND UNLESS GNZ OBTAINS
A FAIRER TRADE DEAL

1. IN AN ADDRESS TO THE BUSINESS GROUP OF THE JAPAN
SOCIETY OF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND ON MARCH 15 THE DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF
OVERSEAS TRADE, B.E. TALBOYS, STATED THAT JAPANESE FISHING
BOAT ACCESS TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS MAY BE BLOCKED UNLESS
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MOVES SOON ON A LONG DELAYED LONG
TERM TRADE AGREEMENT WITH NEW ZEALAND.

2. MR TALBOYS POINTED OUT THAT THE REAL ISSUE AT STAKE
WAS THE STABILITY OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. HE SAID THAT
NEW ZEALAND CAN GIVE AN ASSURANCE TO JAPAN OF STABLE
SUPPLY OF SUCH PRODUCTS AS DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BEEF PROVIDED
NZ IN TURN COULD PLAN PRODUCTION IN THE LIGHT OF ASSURED
LEVELS OF ACCESS.

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3. TALBOYS POINTED OUT THAT GNZ IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF
JAPAN'S NEEDS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOOD SUPPLIES, PARTICULARLY
FISH AND UP UNTIL NOW HAS MAINTAINED AN OPEN PORT ENTRY POLICY
FOR FISHING VESSELS. HE SAID THE GNZ NOW REQUESTED THE GOJ
TO AFFORD THE SAME DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING TO NEW ZEALAND'S
NEEDS. HE UNDERLINED THIS BY DECLARING "WE HAVE NOW REACHED
THE POINT IN OUR RELATIONS WHERE GREATER STABILITY AND

GREATER CONFIDENCE ARE ESSENTIAL TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT (OF STABLE ACCESS FOR MODEST LEVELS OF A FEW COMMODITIES)".

4. LAST YEAR JAPAN WAS NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT MARKET. MR TALBOYS STRESSED THAT JAPAN WAS IMPORTANT TO NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE IT RANKS AS ONE OF THE THREE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIES IN THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD; BECAUSE JAPAN IS ALREADY GREATLY INVOLVED IN THE PACIFIC AND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN REGIONS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO NZ; AND "BECAUSE NEW ZEALAND'S OWN ECONOMIC FORTUNES CAN BE DIRECTLY INFLUENCED BY WHAT JAPAN DOES AND DOES NOT DO".

5. MR TALBOYS CLAIMS THAT NZ'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN HAS NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE, IF THE MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP IS TO GROW FURTHER, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE AN INCREASED ELEMENT OF STABILITY IN IT FOR NZ. BUT AT PRESENT, DESPITE SEVERAL JOINT NZ-JAPAN VENTURES, THE SITUATION IS ERRATIC. THERE IS DISCRIMINATION, FOR EXAMPLE, NZ SAWN TIMBER EXPORTS OF PINUS RADIATA ARE SUBJECT TO A TARIFF ON ENTRY INTO JAPAN WHERE SIMILAR TIMBER FROM OTHER SOURCES ENJOYS FREE ENTRY.

6. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 16, MR TALBOYS SUMMONED THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND, MR H TANAKA, TO HIS OFFICE TO UNDERLINE THE WARNINGS HE HAD MADE EARLIER. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, MR TALBOYS TOLD MR TANAKA THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RECONSIDERING ITS OPEN PORT POLICY FOR JAPANESE FISHING BOATS AND THAT JAPAN WILL HAVE TO DO MORE FOR NEW ZEALAND BEFORE IT CAN EXPECT EASY ACCESS TO A 200-MILE OFFSHORE ZONE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD MR TANAKA WAS GIVEN A COPY OF THE SPEECH
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MR TALBOYS MADE TO THE JAPAN SOCIETY. AFTER THE MEETING MR TANAKA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NEW ZEALAND'S SITUATION AND WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE AGREED THAT ANY RESTRICTION TO PORT ACCESS WOULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR THE JAPANESE AND CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN WAS KEEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO ANY NEW ZEALAND 200-MILE ZONE. MR TANAKA UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY MR TALBOY'S SENTIMENTS TO TOKYO.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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